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The Washington Union.

VOL. XIV. NO. 134.

WASHINGTON CITY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1858.

TWO CENTS.

"LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

LETTER FROM EUROPE.

[Special Correspondence of the Union.]

PARIS, August 30, 1858.

With the exception of the speech of M. de Persigny, urging the necessity of decentralization and greater municipal liberty in France, nothing of importance has occurred in France since my last letter. The importance of M. de Persigny's speech, and the suggestions of Count de Montalivet, are, perhaps, better understood out of France than in it, but, if the Emperor will it, the French will, at his command, even accept municipal liberty, and make such use of it as the Minister shall, from time to time, indicate. The French are an eminently civilized people; they are, it is pretty generally admitted, at the head of European civilization; they set the fashions and the models whom others are proud to imitate; they are sprightly, polite, epigrammatic, *esprit*, amusing, agreeable; but they must be governed, and all political questions that have been debated in France referred simply to the party or man who shall govern the country, and not to the manner in which this was to be accomplished. M. de Persigny's speech, is hardly the result of a simple, detached, individual inspiration, but rather a semi-official pronouncement of the views of the Emperor, affording a new proof of his productive mind and his capacity for governing that extraordinary people.

While the Emperor Napoleon is fortifying France against her foreign enemies, if any such she now has, and developing her internal resources, the *Duchesse de Berry* has arranged a meeting of the principal members of the old dynasty at Brunnau, in Styria, (Austria). The Count de Chambord will be there, with many other nobilities, after which the Pretender will repair to Venice, where he will pass the winter. Simultaneously with these proceedings, to which very little consequence is given anywhere, an effort is now making to establish a French Republic in England, devoted to the Orleans interest. I do not know whether the late trip of M. Guizot to England had any reference to this project; but, as a large portion of the *liberals* of France belong, up to this moment, to the Orleans faction, the Republic, if it should really be established, will not be deficient in talent. While these gentlemen write, the Emperor will be content to act, and so the effect of the Review, like the arranged family meeting at Brunnau, will not lead to any serious changes in the situation of Europe.

Of more importance to the United States may be the transfer of the Marquis de Turgo to Madrid to Berne, in Switzerland, and his being replaced by M. de Barrot at Madrid. The nomination of the Count de Montalivet as minister to Brussels is equally important, in connection with the late ministerial attempt to fortify Antwerp; while that of M. de Salicrue-Fructon to Frankfurt-on-the-Main hardly attracts much notice. The Emperor has declared that the question still pending between Denmark and the Germanic confederation in regard to the principalities, Holstein and Lauenburg, is a purely federal one, not concerning foreign nations at all, and this is undoubtedly the position which M. de Salicrue-Fructon will occupy at Frankfurt. The present French government seeks to maintain friendly relations with all foreign nations; but the Emperor is determined to show the value of peace by the immense preparations he is making for war, should that dire necessity be forced upon him.

The amount to be paid to Lord Palmerston for the use of his telegraph is 100,000 francs, or about \$80,000, which is a large sum considering that the leading Parisian journals do not look upon the telegraph cable across the Atlantic as likely to benefit France in the same degree as it does England, and that the highest degree of enthusiasm to which the semi-official *Continentale* could screw up its intellectual capacity was to frankly admit that France could "not be altogether indifferent" to the connection.

INTERESTING FROM CHINA—THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT CANTON.

We give below some extracts from a private letter just received from Canton, China:

July 4. . . . We are all in a state of ferment and anxiety, not knowing what is to be the next scene of this Anglo-Chinese tragic farce. At the North, the plenipotentiaries were, at the last accounts, living in great state inside the city of Tientsin (about 60 miles from Peking), where they were furnished with fine houses, servants, *chambers*, and other appliances of civilized life, by the complaisant and obsequious natives. Old Hien-fong, his most serene celestial Majesty, had sent two *Manchus* to treat, and things were represented as going on amicably. At the same time, his excellency, Wang, the new imperial commissioner, appointed one Yeh, who is at present at Calcutta without leave, has issued on his arrival at Peking, a day's journey from Canton, a manifesto breathing the most murderous and defiant threats. He abuses the English roundly, says that they have ever pursued an aggressive and unjust course towards the Chinese, that they have humiliated Canton, and destroyed numerous lives. That they are a mean, grasping, cheating set of God-forsaken villains, and a disgrace to humanity. With regard to the French, he intimates that they are a pretty good sort of folks, but that the English have inveigled them into a wicked alliance, and he thinks some well-disposed and charitable individuals should let them know the real character of the Britishers, and that "in case they withdraw from the alliance there is a chance that some small ray of imperial benevolence may shine upon them."

The Americans he describes as the wisest of western nations, paragons of virtue, pious, well-disposed, law-abiding, honorable, generous, and kind-hearted men, worthy of all praise and protection from the Chinese. Still, one hundred dollars is the price for a foreigner's head, be he English, French, American, or anything else. We sleep with revolvers under our pillows, and loaded Sharpe's rifles near at hand. We never go out without some of one sort or another, some wearing big cutlasses, and such like ugly weapons. Meetings are held every day or so to devise means for public protection, and a committee is appointed to communicate with the allied authorities. As trade is almost entirely stopped, it is probable that we shall all stop for Kong-kong many years, and wait there till affairs have "calmed down to a crisis."

JULY 6.—We have been compelled to leave Canton. Our lives were not safe there for a moment, and we are now in Hong-Kong. The news from the North is promising. The Russian and American treaties are already signed. The testimony was corroborated on the fourth day of November next, when the trial of the accused slavers will take place before Hon. James M. Wayne, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. This is in full accordance with our announcement on the 1st inst. The testimony of two of the sailors belonging to the prize crew was likewise taken, and they were bound over in the same manner. The remaining two seamen will give their testimony to-day. If these seamen do not obtain bail they will be remanded to jail to await the sitting of the court. Their names are: Peter Clark, William Dyer, Patrick McGowan and John Kennedy. The testimony was corroborated by that given by Lieut. Moffat at the examination of the slave crew in Boston, which will be found in another column.

We regret exceedingly to add that the yellow fever has broken out at the jail, and that four cases are reported there. Of these, two Spaniards, Antonio Gomez and Dominica de LaPierre, are of the crew of the Echo.

The first overland California mail to California, via Jefferson city and Springfield, Mo., Fort Smith, Ark., and Preston, Texas, took its departure from the St. Louis post office on the 16th. It goes by the Pacific railroad to Tipton, Missouri, thence in coaches and spring wagons to San Francisco; the fare from St. Louis to San Francisco being \$290.

Feeling that by the great multitude of Washingtonians who regard my Musings as a part of their breakfast service, I am expected to be faithful to my salt, and to see that a tribute be not wanting to plead for the rights of the disinfranchised, I take this opportunity to urge

THE MYSTERY OF THE CONVULSUS.

No doubt the fever invades,
But many symbols bright and fair,
And serene, too, of weight to solve,
His moaning fragile frame declare.

It colors; let us read them right—
Purple, of mystery the sign,
As if of purity, the white,
I need not to you mind divine
What means the mock-egg of tender blue;
It tells its own tale clear and true,
So in this vase-like flower, combined
We read those charms of woman's face;
Vivacious and dignified, entwined
With innocence and love and grace.

It symbolizes, too, this little flower,
The shortness of the life of man;
The only life for an hour's youth,
And its scarce stretches to its span.
Gently its tender petals close,
Then mock and seduce the hand to hold,
May we as daily mood the thrice
That number its amazing deal.

Again, as passed the dew of night,
This flower that sprang at morning light,
But not we saw it in its prime,
Till, passing through this vale of tears,
Our eyes to trust and faith may pass
To the domain of the upper spheres.

Another lesson would they take,
O, dear one! which that low rustle spoke?
Nest at the light; quit thou the couch,
And with thy living vision seek
The morning glory of the skies:
The crown, alas! of waiting star,
Grown bright and hoarse, to adorn
As heralds dawn the sky,
The coming of requiting Morn.

Another scene, still wouldn't heart?
Is not there, then, a voice to hear?
Hear that low rustle, that low rustle,
That tells us in our hearts rejoice,
Are brighter glories may share.

Love! Not yet is half the story
Of our house and moving glory
Away deep in the mystic cell,
Dedicated from the vault as high,
Shadows I see a LIPSIAI swell,
And I look my eyes well.
It belongs to us as we are,
It belongs to us as we are.

C. W. WASHINGTON, Sept. 19, 1858.

METROPOLITAN MUSINGS.

WASHINGTON, besides being the political capital of the United States, is a sort of federal thermometer, to indicate the degrees of the national progress. In this it differs from the great capitals of Europe; London, for instance, is the keyboard of commerce, the